

# NH CELCP PLAN

## SECTION I – Description of the program and priorities

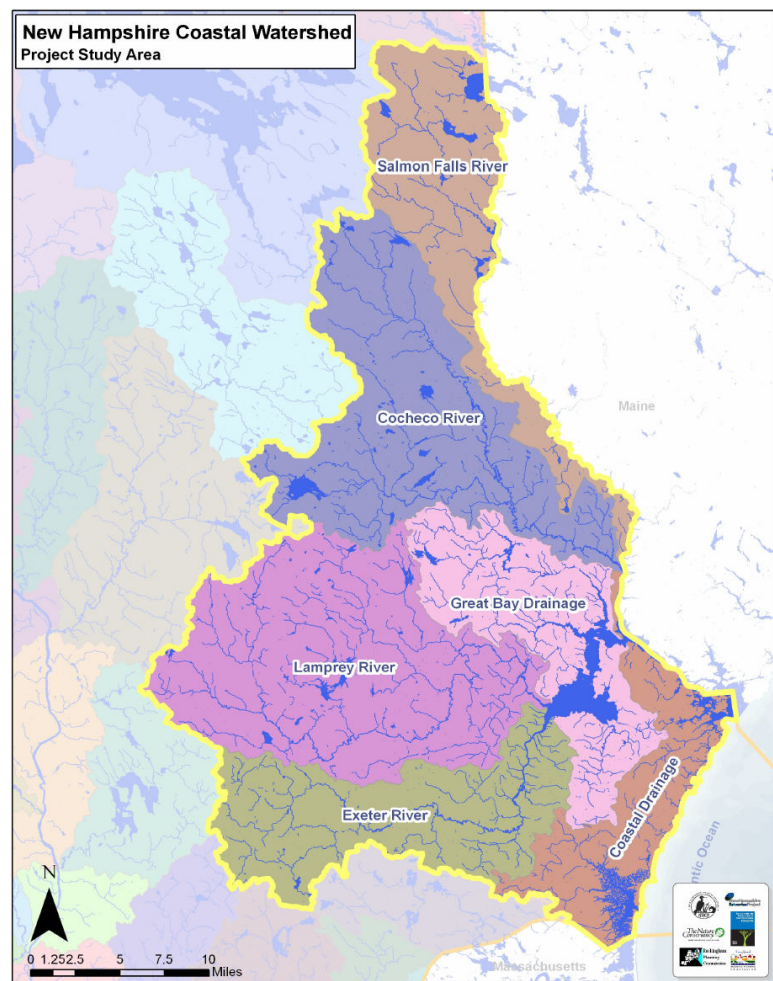
### Introduction

Southeastern New Hampshire is changing before our eyes. The region's forests, wildlife habitat, clean water, and scenic vistas are increasingly threatened by sprawling development, roads, and other irreversible land use changes. Over the past 36 years, in Rockingham and Strafford Counties, an average of 2,230 acres per year has been converted from undeveloped land to a developed condition. And there is no indication that the pace of development will slow in the foreseeable future. The two counties are projected to add more than 100,000 new residents from 2000 to 2025.

With this conversion comes the loss of important natural resource values provided by undeveloped land, especially for plant and wildlife habitat, clean water, and other “ecological services.” To ensure a healthy environment into the future, it is essential that communities identify, retain, and protect the remaining undeveloped lands and waters that support the most important of these natural resource values and functions.

New Hampshire's coastal watersheds (see Figure 1) are, quite simply, irreplaceable. Representing only 9% of the State, these 525,000 acres:

- Harbor our small coastline, sandy beaches and dunes, and rocky shores.
- Provide essential habitat for more than 130 rare species, including many species of plants and wildlife that occur nowhere else in New Hampshire.
- Contain more than 1,800 miles of rivers and streams, ranging from cold brook trout headwaters in the upper watershed to large, meandering tidal rivers near the coast.
- Include two highly productive and important estuaries, Great Bay and Hampton-Seabrook, and several sizeable salt marsh complexes.
- Still retain complex and diverse forest and wetland ecosystems that



provide habitat, ecosystem services (such as water quality filtering and flood protection), timber supply, and other forest products.

- Still retain working farms that raise row-crops, hay, animals, and other products.
- Offer some of the State's best outdoor recreation opportunities for hiking, hunting, salt and freshwater fishing, boating, snowmobiling, bird-watching, bicycle riding, and more.
- Provide unparalleled, diverse scenery that shapes the region's character and quality of life.

Tens of thousands of people call New Hampshire's coastal watersheds "home." Better than anyone, these residents understand why the coastal watersheds are so special, and why communities must work independently and collaboratively to safeguard these natural assets for present and future generations.

(All the above is from The Nature Conservancy, et al. *The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds*, 2006, Concord, NH)

## About this Plan

This plan covers priority conservation areas for the coastal watershed in New Hampshire (Figure 1). The New Hampshire Coastal Program developed the New Hampshire Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (NHCELCP) Plan primarily through a partnership of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), Rockingham Planning Commission, and Strafford Regional Planning Commission. The partners were contracted by the New Hampshire Coastal Program and the New Hampshire Estuaries Project to develop *The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds* because, collectively, these organizations have considerable experience and expertise in conservation planning and strategy development and community engagement.

*The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds* is NOT the NHCELCP Plan but contributes greatly towards it. As mentioned above, the CELCP focus includes important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values. *The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds* was designed to address the ecological and conservation values of the land, as these can be evaluated objectively at the watershed scale using abundant existing geospatial data, although the identified conservation focus areas also include a range of recreation, historical, and aesthetic resources.

The CELCP program's language gives priority to lands that have significant ecological values, and which can be effectively managed and protected. For the purposes of the Plan, we interpreted **significant ecological values** to include those lands and waters that are most important for conserving *living resources* – native plants, animals, natural communities, and ecosystems - and *water quality*. The focus on lands that **can be effectively managed and protected** is somewhat more challenging to define, however most ecologists and conservation land managers would suggest that larger and more intact blocks of conservation land are more viable and easier to manage (per unit area) for their conservation values than are smaller and more fragmented conservation areas. This realization has been a major driver behind the national movement to establish landscape-scale conservation projects and protected areas.

While the focus of the NHCELCP Plan is on ecological and conservation values, recreation, historical and aesthetic values are also addressed, primarily as supporting values to the ecology of the watershed.

## Priority Project Areas

### ***Ecological***

Through our contract with TNC, SPNHF and the regional planning commissions, we have identified 75 Conservation Focus Areas. We identified these Conservation Focus Areas through a systematic, state-of-the-art analysis of a wealth of natural resources data. Collectively, these areas comprise approximately 190,300 acres, or 36% of the watershed. A reduced-scale version of the Conservation Focus Area map is included as Figure 2 at the end of this Section.

*A **Conservation Focus Area (CFA)** is an area that is considered to be of exceptional significance for the protection of living resources and water quality in the coastal watersheds. In general, focus areas occur in places where multiple important natural resource features co-occur to an extent that is significant from a watershed perspective. Occasionally, focus areas emerged that contained only one or two important features, because the features were considered truly irreplaceable (e.g., habitat for a globally rare species or an intact coastal saltmarsh). Each CFA is comprised of a **Core Area**. Some CFAs also include **Supporting Natural Landscape**. Please see Figure 2 for a map of coastal New Hampshire's CFAs.*

- *The **Core Area** is the contiguous geographic area that contains the primary natural features and habitat for which the CFA was identified. Core Areas contain essential habitat for plant and wildlife species of concern and exemplary natural communities, highest quality small watersheds and other vital freshwater features, irreplaceable coastal resources such as estuarine shoreline, and the best remaining examples of intact forest ecosystems. These unfragmented areas, which are wholly or almost entirely undeveloped, represent the highest priority for conservation and protection.*

- *The **Supporting Natural Landscape** includes the surrounding area that helps to safeguard the Core Area while also providing habitat for many common species. A Supporting Natural Landscape functions as a buffer around the Core Area, undeveloped watersheds, and undeveloped forest blocks, helping to maintain ecological processes upon which habitats and species depend. Conserving supporting landscapes will embed the Core Areas in a minimally fragmented and minimally disturbed matrix, thus helping to maintain the viability and quality of the Core Area natural features over time.*

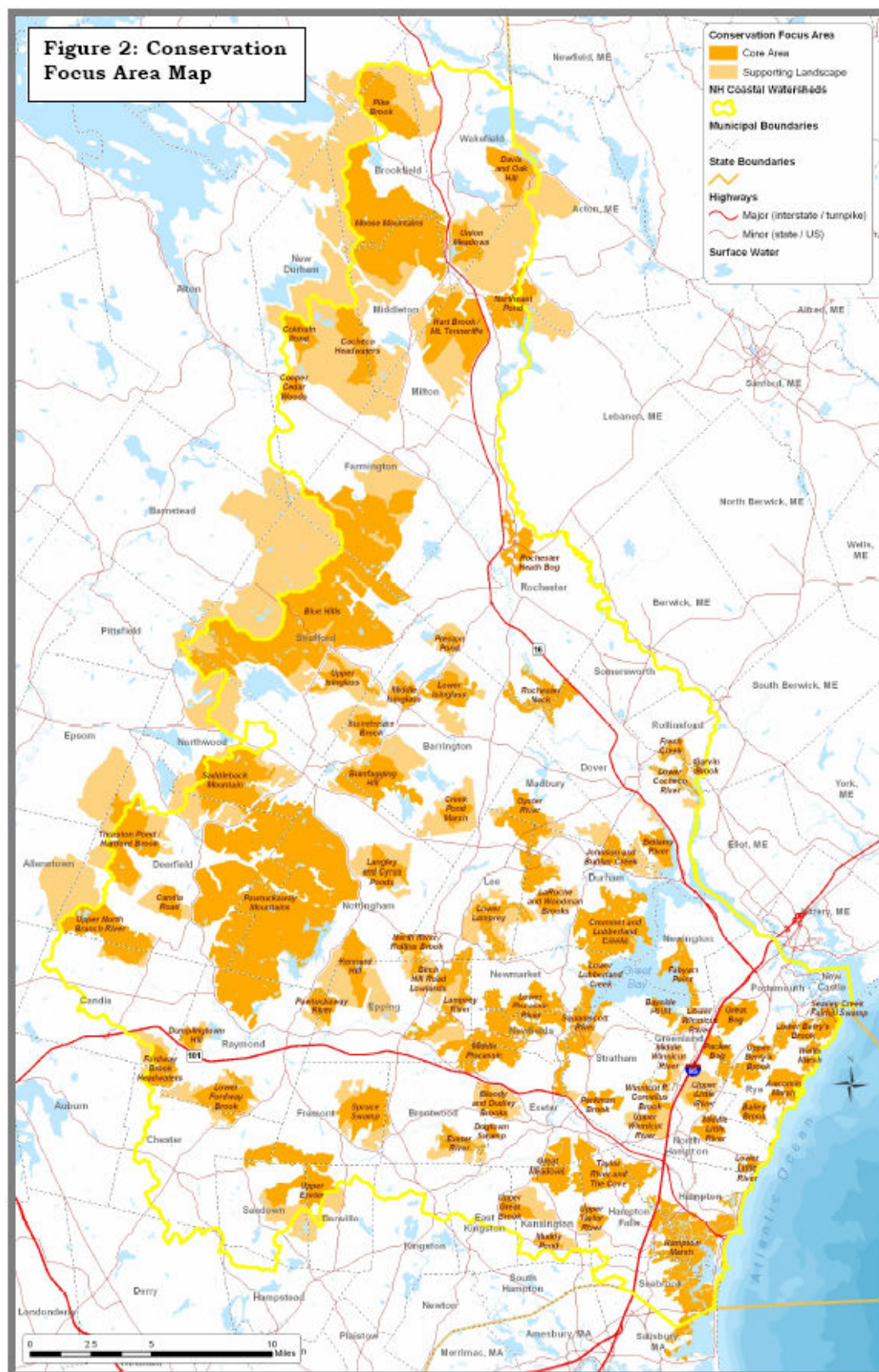
*The **Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds**, which fully describes the methodology for delineating the CFAs, can be found at [www.des.nh.gov/coastal/CoastalEstuarine.html](http://www.des.nh.gov/coastal/CoastalEstuarine.html). We identified six categories of key natural resource features that best address living resources and water quality:*

1. Unfragmented forest ecosystems.
2. High quality stream watersheds.
3. Coastal and estuarine resources.

4. Large and high quality wetland systems.
5. Riparian zones on freshwater and tidal rivers, streams, lakes and ponds.
6. Rare species, exemplary natural communities, and significant wildlife habitat.

These key resources were collapsed into four map layers which make up the background data for the CFAs: Forest Ecosystems, Freshwater Systems, Irreplaceable Coastal and Estuarine Resources, and Critical Plant and Wildlife Habitat. Each of these layers is important in its own right and that importance is reflected in the scoring criteria in Section II. In addition, the Land Conservation Plan includes a matrix of local conservation and open space plans. The NHCELCP Plan focuses on the CFAs because these areas have the greatest ecological and conservation significance for New Hampshire's coastal watersheds. Understandably, its regional nature does not always reflect resources that might be very important locally but lack watershed-scale significance. Therefore, the Land Conservation Plan also incorporates a matrix of local plans that include the relative value of ecologically sensitive lands at the local level. This matrix is referenced through the scoring criteria.



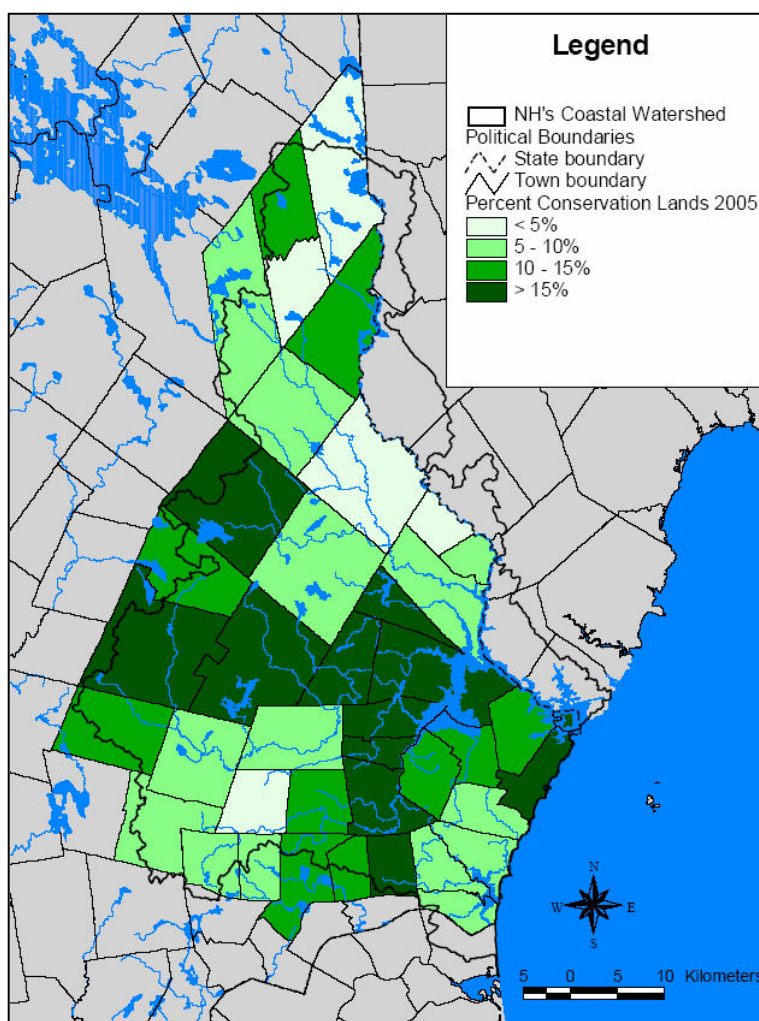


## Conservation

The values associated with conservation in this NHCELCP Plan are largely related to the CFAs described. The CFAs are discretely mapped areas of important ecological resources within the larger watershed. The connections between and amongst the CFAs were not precisely mapped, although there are still opportunities to conserve or restore connectivity across many of the CFAs. Figure 2 shows the CFAs and current conservation lands. Within the entire coastal watershed, some 54,622 acres (about 10.7%) have been protected through either fee purchases or the use of conservation easements. The study identified a total of 190,300 acres, or slightly more than one-third of the land and water in the coastal watershed, as Conservation Focus Areas. Of this total, only 41,387 acres (or about 22%) are currently protected, leaving approximately 150,000 acres of area for which some form of protection is still needed. Regard must be given, also, to the rivers, streams, and corridors, often identified in local plans, connecting these CFAs. These lands function as the linkages that are critical to habitat and water quality protection, and prevent further degradation to our coastal watershed.

As mentioned above, about a quarter of the currently conserved lands within the coastal watershed fall outside the CFAs. Does this mean that those conserved acres outside the CFAs are meaningless? Quite the contrary, even if every CFA were protected, we could still have tremendous degradation of our watershed. If the CFAs are the vital organs of our watershed, the other protected lands and lands identified for conservation by local plans are the bones and flesh that connect and protect them. This is particularly true for our tributary river systems, which all lead back to the coast and ultimately to the Gulf of Maine.

Figure ## shows the percentages of each watershed town currently conserved.



(Source: NHEP (2006) Environmental Indicator Report: Land Use and Development. New Hampshire Estuaries Project, Durham, NH. May 2006.)



The NHCELCP Plan priorities for conservation are two-fold, 1) To connect the CFAs and large areas of already conserved lands, and 2) To protect Riparian Buffers (both within and outside of CFAs).

### Connecting CFAs

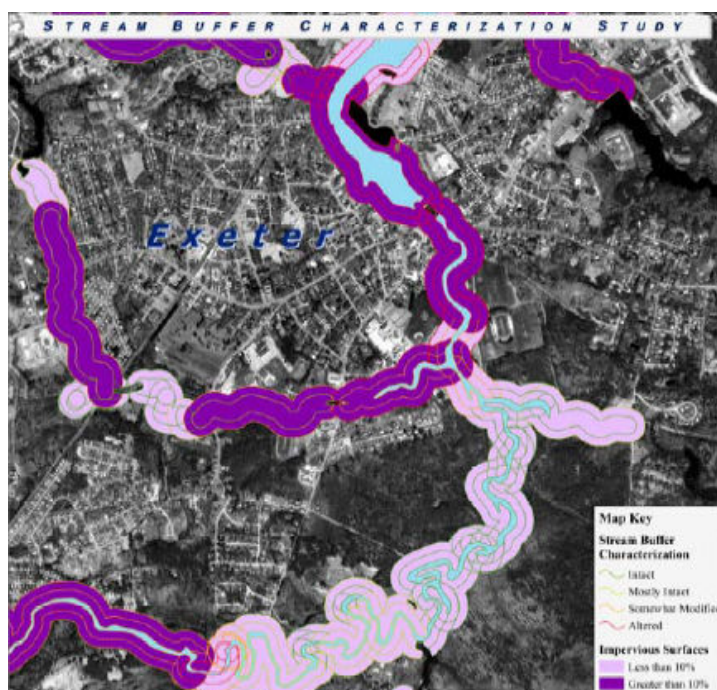
While the emphasis of *The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds* focuses on identifying the extent and distribution of high-value natural resources across the study area that deserve priority for conservation, some concentrations of resources may also afford key land protection opportunities that serve to link large habitat systems, such as forest blocks or river corridors, or bridge gaps among existing conservation parcels.

The priority for conservation within this NHCELCP Plan is on connecting the Conservation Focus Areas described above. Thus, the priorities for project selection within the Conservation category are as follows:

- a) directly link disconnected existing conservation lands within a CFA or between two CFAs;
- b) are directly contiguous to, and expand upon, existing conservation land in a CFA;
- c) are within 1/4 mile of any existing conservation land;
- d) help to create a linkage between two or more CFAs.

### Riparian Zones

Riparian zones are vital to so many aspects of coastal and estuarine health that they deserve special protection. These areas not only shade the waters of our tributary rivers, they filter pollutants, provide habitat corridors and connect conservation lands. Many of these riparian areas in the coastal watershed have been impacted by both historic and new transportation corridors. Residential and commercial development in turn have been influenced by roads because they are historic transportation corridors. Thus, our rivers are some of the most developed areas in the state. Because undeveloped riparian areas are often small, many of them were excluded from the larger Conservation Focus Areas.



Source: Rubin, Fay. 2006. Stream Buffer Characterization Study. Durham, NH.

A recent study by Complex Systems Research Center at UNH for the NH Estuaries Project mapped the intact buffers remaining in the coastal watershed. In essence, the Stream Buffer

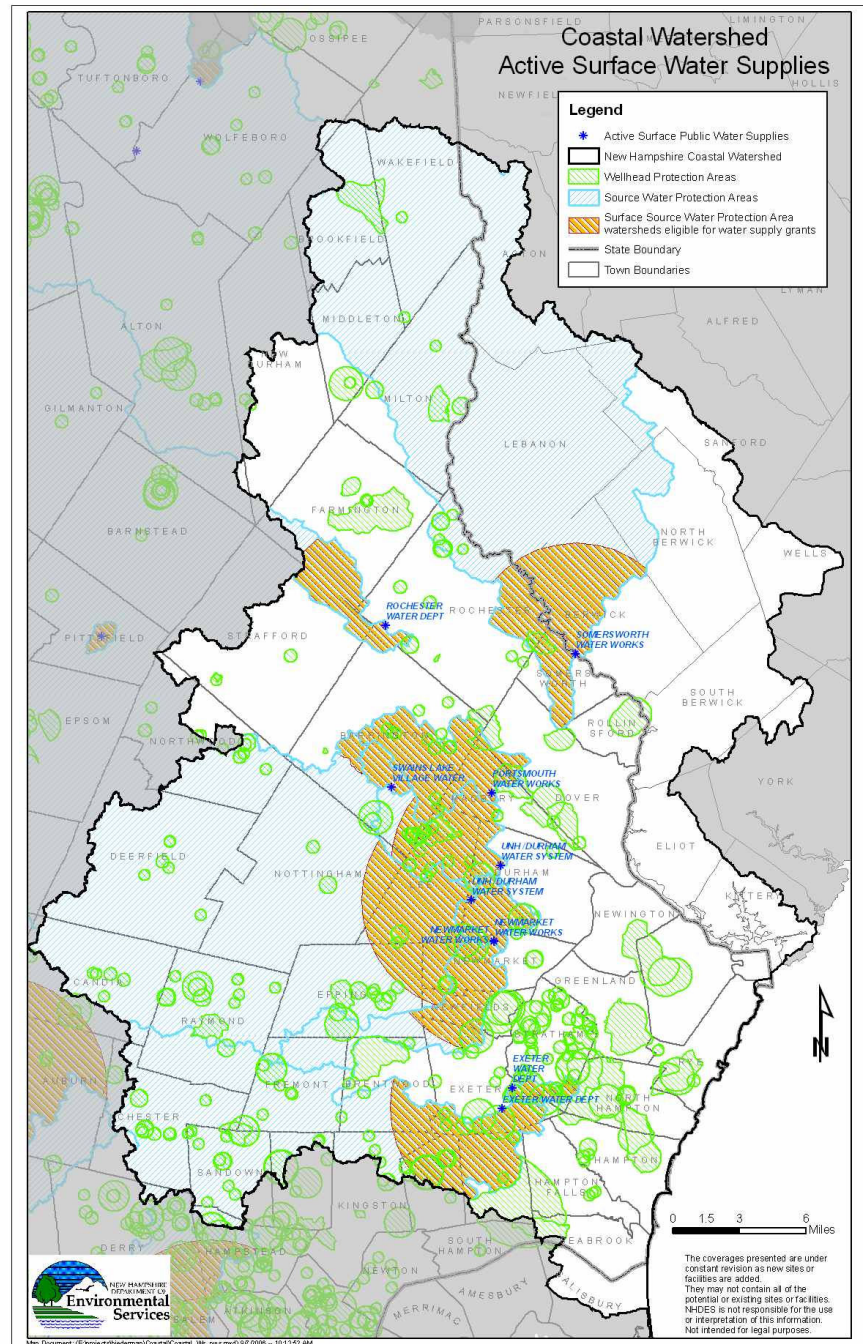
Characterization Study identified those areas of buffers at 150' and 300' feet in width that have not been impacted by development. The report can be downloaded at [http://www.nhep.unh.edu/resources/pdf/stream\\_buffer\\_characterization-unh-06.pdf](http://www.nhep.unh.edu/resources/pdf/stream_buffer_characterization-unh-06.pdf)

For the purposes of this NHCELCP Plan, all intact buffers of 300' or greater will be considered of high conservation value, a significant portion of the tract contain ineligible CELCP uses.

## Water Supply Lands

Preserving clean drinking water ranks high among the economic values of protected land. Water supply was one of the four major categories of economic uses of surface water evaluated in *Estimates of Select Economic Values of New Hampshire Lakes, Rivers, Streams, and Ponds, Phase II Report* (Lisa Shapiro and Heidi Kroll, June 2003) Most of New Hampshire's major coastal rivers are water supply rivers: the Salmon Falls, Oyster, Lamprey, and Exeter Rivers. These rivers alone serve a population of 40,000 or more. The other residents of the coastal area get their drinking water from groundwater and/or stream-fed reservoirs in the coastal watersheds.

Land ownership is one of the most effective ways to ensure long-term protection of water supplies. According to a recent report published by the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA), "Land conservation emphasizes the permanent preservation of land around both groundwater sources (aquifer





recharge areas and wellheads) and surface water sources (land that buffers streams, rivers, and lakes). It's an extremely effective tool that can protect public health, [and] prevent increased treatment costs... in areas where water supplies are protected.” (*The Source Protection Handbook: Using Land Conservation to Protect Local Drinking Water Supplies*, 2005) TPL and AWWA also found that for each 10% of forest cover lost in a water supply watershed, water treatment costs tended to increase by 20% (*Protecting the Source: Land Conservation and the Future of America's Drinking Water*, 2004).

A source water protection area (SWPA) is the land over and under which water drains into a water supply source. When the water supply source is a well, the SWPA is also known as a Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA).

A high NHCELCP priority for water supply land protection is the land within what is called a "designated" SWPA, which is the portion of a SWPA that is within five miles of a surface water intake or within a WHPA. The figure above shows all SWPAs in the coastal watersheds. The figure also shows the designated five-mile portions of SWPAs. In order for the lands to be considered under NHCELCP, they should have intact or restorable natural conditions and demonstrate good ecological values. Finally, the projects should be a “keystone acquisition” -- one that either protects a significant portion of a SWPA, compliments an already conserved area or begins an initiative to protect a large area of a SWPA.

## **Recreation, Historic and Scenic**

As mentioned above, the primary areas of interest for land protection in the NHCELCP Plan are ecology and conservation. We see the areas of recreation, aesthetic and historical resources to be supporting values. Only the very highest valued lands for recreation, aesthetic and historical resources will be considered without supporting ecological and conservation values. The following areas are broken down into highest priority (those which can stand alone) and supporting values (those which augment the ecological and conservation values).

### ***Recreation***

Both in the high priority and supporting values, the NHCELCP Plan recreation priorities are focused on access to water.

#### **High Priority**

- 1) State Rivers management, <http://www.des.nh.gov/rivers/>

The New Hampshire River Management and Protection Program (RMPP) was established in 1988 with the passage of RSA 483 to protect certain rivers, called **designated rivers**, for their outstanding natural and cultural resources. The rivers program is administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES).

For a river to be designated for protection, an interested individual or organization must first develop a **nomination** outlining the river's values and characteristics. Support by local municipal officials and residents of the riverfront communities for the designation must also be sought and

reported. Once completed, the nomination is submitted to the DES Commissioner and, if and when approved, forwarded to the General Court for consideration. If the Legislature approves the nomination, looking closely at the level of local support and presence of important river values, and if the Governor signs the bill, RSA 483 is amended to designate the river for protection under the program.

After designation, a **management plan** is developed so that the outstanding qualities of the river may be protected for future generations. The plan is developed and implemented by a volunteer local river advisory committee that also coordinates activities affecting the river on a regional basis. A typical plan identifies management goals and recommends actions that may be taken to protect the resources identified in the nomination. At the state level, the DES assists with the development and implementation of the management plan and enforces regulations concerning the quality and quantity of flow in protected river segments.

There are three designated rivers in the coastal watershed (See Figure ##):

#### **Isinglass River**

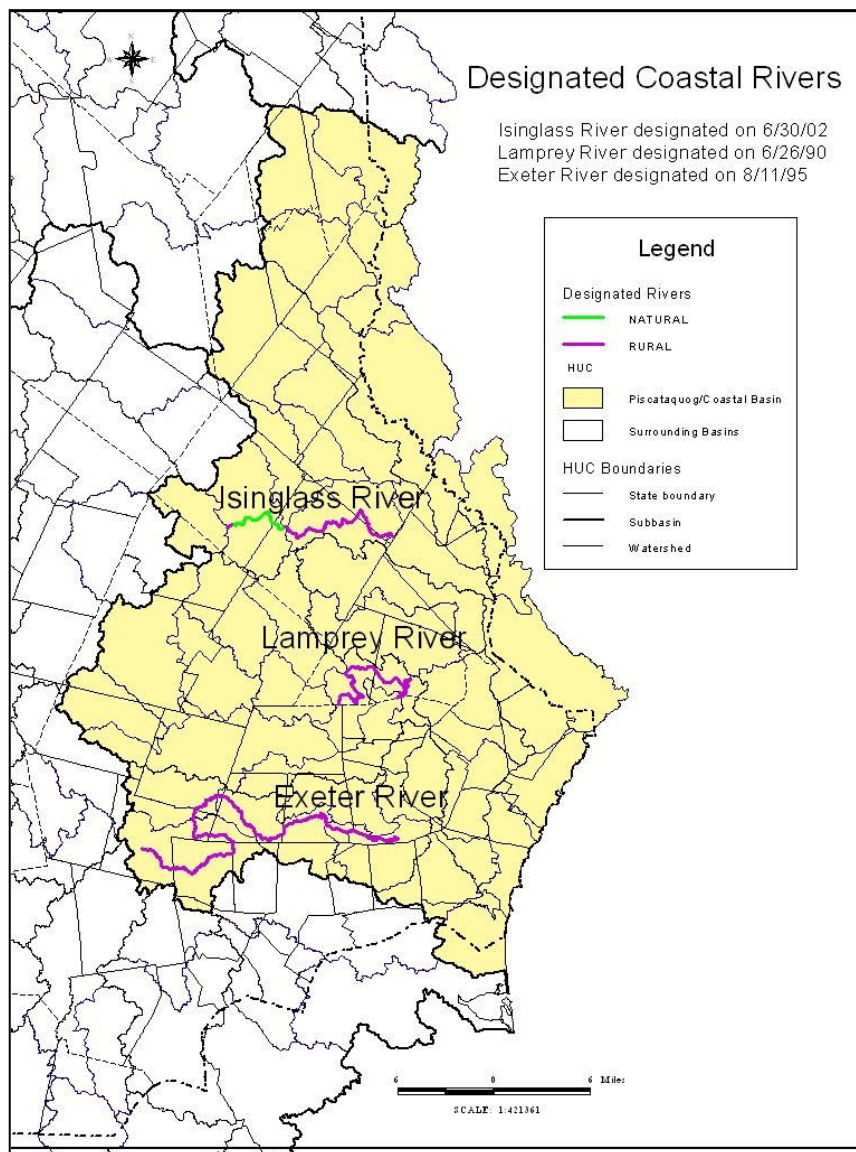
From the outflow of Bow Lake Dam in Strafford to its confluence with the Cocheco River in Rochester. Effective 6/30/02. Municipalities: Strafford, Barrington, Rochester.

#### **Lamprey River**

From the Epping/Lee town line to the Durham/Newmarket town line. Effective 6/26/90. Municipalities: Lee and Durham.

#### **Exeter River**

From the headwaters at the Route 102 bridge in Chester to its confluence with Great Brook in



Exeter. Effective 8/11/95. Municipalities: Chester, Sandown, Danville, Fremont, Raymond, Brentwood, and Exeter.

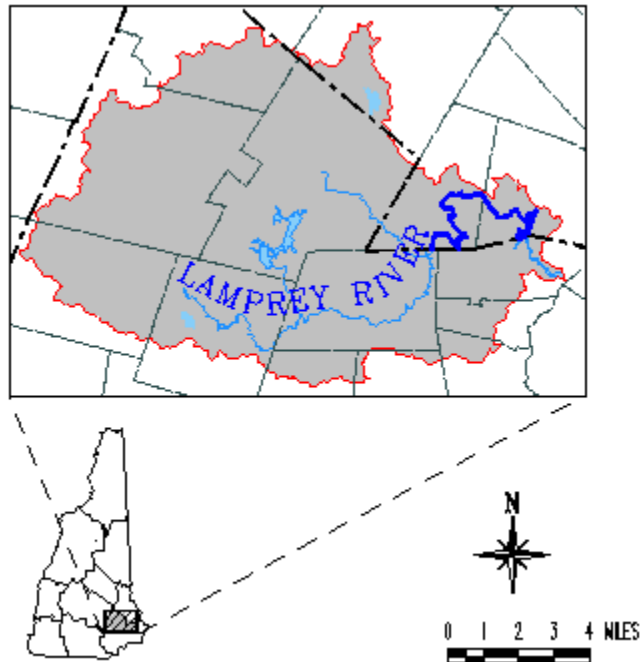
Any lands along these rivers that provide public access will be considered high priority for recreation.

## 2) Wild and Scenic Rivers

To lend balance to our history of physically altering our waterways, Congress created the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In October of 1968, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act pronounced,

*It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

The Wild and Scenic Rivers program is administered by the National Park Service. The only river in the program in the coastal watershed is the Lamprey River from the Bunker Pond Dam in the town of Epping to the confluence with the Piscassic River in the vicinity of the Durham-Newmarket town line. All 23.5 miles of the Lamprey River in the program was classified as such for its recreational value.



*The Lamprey River and its watershed.*

## 3) Lands that provide public access to tidal waters.

While New Hampshire has excellent public access to its beaches, other access points are limited, especially along Great Bay and the tidal rivers. For the purposes of NHCELCP, public access is generally considered to be “low impact” recreation, such as hiking, fishing and launching small boats. The NHCP will work directly with NH Fish and Game and the Department of Resources and Economic Development to make sure that proposed public access sites will not degrade the natural resources surrounding that site. NHCELCP will not forward applications to NOAA that will be detrimental to our coastal resources.

### Supporting values

#### 1) Parcels that connect regionally significant trail systems



- 2) Parcels with canoe/kayak access to tributary rivers (non-tidal and not on designated rivers)

## ***Historical***

The NHCP will consult primarily with two organizations on historic resource applications – New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) and the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources (DHR). LCHIP is an independent state authority that makes matching grants to New Hampshire communities and non-profits to conserve and preserve New Hampshire's most important natural, cultural and historic resources. The DHR is part of the New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources and is responsible for, among other things, making Section 106 determinations.

LCHIP spent a great deal of time creating criteria for protection of historic and cultural lands and features for their grant program. The criteria for importance of historic resources from LCHIP are used in this NHCELCP Plan as well. Thus, for projects to be considered for application to NHCELCP, these following criteria (at a minimum) shall be met:

- (a) Land must have a highly significant historic feature such as stone walls, apple orchards, archeological elements that define the essence of New Hampshire.
- (b) Land must be a cultural asset that defines a community and is therefore important to the New Hampshire landscape, such as a farmstead, scenic vista, orchard, town forest, archaeological site, a last remaining example of heritage as defined by the community or a key representative of local community heritage.
- (c) The significance of that resource is high, whether it is at a local, regional, state or national level.

Further, NHCELCP projects must ensure that the resource remains in its historic context/setting.

### **Highest Priority:**

- 1) National Register of Historic Places –

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

There are 109 listings in Rockingham County and 38 listing in Strafford County according to the National Park Service – ParkNet.

- 2) The New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places is one part of the state's efforts to recognize and encourage the identification and protection of historical, architectural, archeological and cultural resources. These irreplaceable resources may be buildings,

districts, sites, landscapes, structures or objects that are meaningful in the history, architecture, archeology, engineering or traditions of New Hampshire residents and communities. The State Register is administered by DHR, which is the state's Historic Preservation Office. Visit the website at <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/barnstatereg.html>.

Since its creation in 2001, there are now 90 properties on the list, 13 of which are in the coastal watershed.

### **Supporting Values**

1. Birthplaces or homesites of locally or regionally important historic figures
2. Areas of original settlement by Europeans.
3. Sites with known archeological relics (eg. shell middens, tools)
4. Sites deemed by DHR as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (but not yet listed). Most of these sites are listed in the Historic Properties Database. Access to this list is made only by appointment through DHR. For any project that claims to be located on an eligible site, the NHCP will consult with the NH Division of Historical Resources to judge the validity of that claim.

## ***Aesthetic***

### **Highest Priority**

- 1) Unobstructed public views of tidal waters -- ocean, dunes, Great Bay and salt marshes.  
A large part of the New Hampshire economy is driven by tourism. The seacoast is a significant attraction for tourists and residents alike. The picturesque views of the coast draw millions of people to the coast and Great Bay each year. Protecting those views has always been difficult due to the pressure of development along our shores. NHCELCP makes conservation of shore views a priority due to their rarity and extreme development pressure. Any piece of land with unobstructed views of the Gulf of Maine, sand dunes, Great Bay or salt marshes should be protected regardless of size. Unless the tract has ineligible CELCP uses, any shoreline view is considered a high priority.
- 2) Scenic Byways Program  
New Hampshire has over 1,000 miles of designated scenic and cultural byways. The National Scenic Byways (NSB) Program was established under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, and reauthorized in 1998 under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. Under the program, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads as National Scenic Byways or All-American Roads based on their archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities.

There are three designated scenic byways in the coastal watershed. These include: Coastal Byway along Rts. 1A and 1B along the Atlantic shore. The Independence Byway along Rts. 107, 108 and 27 moving from Hampton through Exeter to Kensington and ending in Seabrook. The Branch River Valley Trail journeys through the small rural towns of

Wakefield and Milton in the northwest part of the watershed, and on to the Maine border. Maps for each of these scenic byways are located in Appendix A.

### **Supporting values**

- 1) Documented locally significant aesthetic resources (as identified in Master Plans)
- 2) State Rivers Management Program (described above under recreation).
- 3) Wild and Scenic Rivers

### **Public input process**

In developing the plan, the partners sought input from a variety of people, organizations, and agencies familiar with the coastal watersheds. In addition, we conducted six public and expert outreach meetings about the plan:

Oct. 2005 1st Public Meeting at Newington Town Hall

Feb. 2006 1st Local Experts Review Meeting

May 2006 2nd Local Experts Review Meeting

Land Trust Review Meeting

June 2006 Review of Implementation Strategies by Planners and Developers

2nd Public Meeting at Newington Town Hall

August ###, 2006 -- Public Notice on draft plan

At each meeting, the partners requested feedback to help inform and improve the final plan.

### **How this Plan meets NOAA national criteria:**

**Criteria 1** - Protects important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses.

This plan used the methods identified above to be specific about the priority areas for conservation. We have attempted to use the best science and available information to identify the most significant lands for protection. The mapping methods for the Conservation Focus Areas take an innovative approach of combining existing data with expert input.

**Criteria 2** - Gives priority to lands that can be effectively managed and protected and that have significant ecological value.

The focus on lands that “can be effectively managed and protected” is somewhat more challenging to define, however most ecologists and conservation land managers would suggest that larger and more intact blocks of conservation land are more viable and easier to manage (per unit area) for their conservation values than are smaller and more fragmented conservation areas. This realization has been a major driver behind the national movement to establish landscape-scale conservation projects and protected areas.



One of the underlying premises behind the creation of Conservation Focus Areas is that larger areas of conservation are better. That is why the areas tend to clump in certain areas. The same is true on the conservation values. Our focus for conservation are linking together existing protected lands and the CFAs, and on protecting buffers around our large tributary rivers. In addition, the focus on recreation, aesthetics and historic values tend to tie into existing programs such as our River Management and Protection Program and Scenic Byways program. By utilizing existing programs, management challenges are greatly reduced.

**Criteria 3** - Directly advances the goals, objectives, or implementation of the state's coastal management plan or program, National Estuarine Research Reserve management plans approved under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), national objectives of the CZMA, or a regional or state watershed protection plan involving coastal states with approved coastal management plans.

The New Hampshire coastal management plan has several policies related to land protection. Each of these policies is backed up with enforcing laws and rules. The policies that specifically mention land conservation and are implemented through CELCP include:

- Policy 1 – Protect and preserve, and where appropriate, restore the water and related land resources of the coastal and estuarine environment.
- Policy 2 – Manage, conserve and, where appropriate, undertake measures to maintain, restore and enhance the fish and wildlife resources of the state.
- Policy 5 – Encourage investigations of the distribution, habitat needs, and limiting factors of rare and endangered animal species and undertake conservation programs to ensure their continued perpetuation.
- Policy 6 - Identify, designate and preserve unique and rare plant and animal species and geologic formations which constitute the natural heritage of the state. Encourage measures, including acquisition strategies, to ensure their protection.
- Policy 7 -- Provide a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities including public access in the seacoast through the maintenance and improvement of the existing public facilities and the acquisition and development of new recreational areas and public access.
- Policy 8 -- Preserve the rural character and scenic beauty of the Great Bay estuary by limiting public investment in infrastructure within the coastal zone in order to limit development to a mixture of low and moderate density.
- Policy 15 -- Support the preservation, management, and interpretation of historic and culturally significant structures, sites and districts along the Atlantic coast and in the Great Bay area.

In addition, the New Hampshire Coastal Program's approved Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Plan identified protecting wetland and riparian areas as management measure #4.1.4.2.G. This management measure specifically identified permanent protection through easements or fee simple purchase as significant nonpoint source pollution abatement strategies, especially as they protect the tributary rivers to Great Bay and the coast.

The New Hampshire Estuaries Project's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for New Hampshire's Estuaries identifies land conservation as a priority for the protection of estuarine water quality and estuarine resources. The Management Plan was developed over a

three-year planning period and involved input from numerous stakeholders and the public to identify priorities for the protection and enhancement of New Hampshire's estuaries. Several action plans in the Management Plan address land conservation, particularly for important lands adjacent to estuaries and their tributaries. In addition, the New Hampshire Estuaries Project has set a goal of permanently protecting 15% of the lands in the coastal watersheds from development by 2010. As of 2003 only 8.4% of land was permanently protected. The New Hampshire projects identified for CELCP FFY2006 funding will protect important lands abutting tributaries, including some key headwater areas, and add significantly to the overall amount of land protected in the state's coastal watersheds thereby meeting several objectives of the New Hampshire Estuaries Project's Management Plan.

The Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is also well represented in the NHCELCP Plan. We did this by using the refuge boundary as one of the key data layers in the development of the Conservation Focus Areas. Specifically the GBNERR boundary is part of the Coastal and Estuarine Resource map (*See Appendix ##*)

The NHCELCP Plan also takes into consideration local and other watershed conservation plans. Appendix ## is a matrix of those plans. Consideration of these plans is given in the scoring criteria.

**Criteria 4** - Is consistent with the state's approved coastal management program.

The determination of Federal Consistency will be attached once the plan is approved by OCRM. That approval will constitute a Federal Activity.

## **SECTION II – Project Selection Process**

The NHCELCP process will be closely tied to the national process. As such, the details of timing and precise application requirements will not be written into this plan. Rather, those details will be part of an annual request for proposals (RFP). The process for receiving and reviewing those RFPs is described below.

### **RFP Process:**

Under the original CELCP legislation “The state lead agency will be responsible for: soliciting projects that are consistent with priorities outlined in the state’s plan, reviewing them for completeness, prioritizing them according to state criteria, and nominating projects to the national selection process.” The New Hampshire Coastal Program (NHCP) is the state lead agency. As such, the NHCP will solicit application for CELCP funding on an annual basis as a way of implementing the NHCELCP Plan. Below is a summary of that process:

- 1) NOAA releases the schedule and application requirements.
- 2) NHCP will produce and distribute a RFP for CELCP funding based on the NOAA schedule.
- 3) Proposals are due back to NHCP in time to score them for the national competition.
- 4) NHCP will assemble a review committee of qualified agency, non-profit and land protection consultants to review the proposals. NHCP will be careful to include qualified individuals who are not personally involved in CELCP applications. It is possible that the CELCP review will “piggy-back” on the Forest Legacy grant review utilizing a subset of the Forest Legacy reviewers.
- 5) NHCP will use the scoring criteria (attached) for a preliminary ranking of the proposals.
- 6) All interested parties are invited to participate in a meeting to discuss the preliminary ranking and attempt to reach consensus on a final ranking.
- 7) Priority project proposals will be polished up and sent to NOAA by the due date - fall.
- 8) NOAA sends national priority projects to congress –winter/spring.
- 9) Congress approves FFY 2008 projects- fall
- 10) Funded projects complete full application including easement language, management plans, etc and return to NOAA. -- winter
- 11) Funding available for successful projects – following spring.

### **Project Requirements:**

Per NOAA guidelines CELCP funds may be used for:

- Acquisition of properties or interests in properties from willing sellers, provided that the terms and conditions will ensure that the property will be administered for conservation in perpetuity, including direct expenses relating to the acquisition of lands and interests in lands acquired under the authority of the CELCP; and
- Certain initial costs for land stewardship, not to exceed 5 percent of the award and not to exceed three years or the duration of award period, to allow for signage, public safety, or other stewardship purposes.

All proposed CELCP projects must:



- be located in a coastal or estuarine area included within a state's approved coastal and estuarine land conservation plan (see watershed map);
- match federal funds with non-federal funds at a ratio of 1:1;
- be held in public ownership and provide conservation in perpetuity;
- provide for access to the general public, or other public benefit, as appropriate and consistent with resource protection;
- be consistent with the state's coastal management program approved under the CZMA.

The applicant must be a qualified entity (eligible state or local unit of government).

#### Project Readiness:

We expect that proposals will be submitted for projects that are well-along in their development. Recognizing that projects can be in various stages of development and that funding from this cycle will not be available for approximately 18 months after submission, projects should be as specific as possible. At the very least, proposals should be for specific tracts of land and land-owners should have been contacted about their willingness to sell. By a minimum of 12 months after initial proposal submission, the applicant should be in a position to submit documentation that the current owner is a willing participant in a process of negotiation for possible sale of property, or interests in property, for conservation purposes. This documentation may be in the form of a letter of willingness or intent, option letter, contract, or other similar form.

List of Conservation organizations in New Hampshire eligible to hold easements on CELCP properties under public ownership.

#### • **Bear-Paw Regional Greenways**

PO Box 19, 63 Nottingham Road  
Deerfield NH 03037  
(603) 463-9400

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways is a land trust established by community volunteers concerned with protecting open space lands. Bear-Paw has proposed a greenway that connects private or public lands with large areas of conservation land in a seven-town region including: Candia, Deerfield, Epsom, Northwood, Nottingham, Raymond, and Strafford.

[www.bear-paw.org](http://www.bear-paw.org)

#### • **Moose Mountains Regional Greenways**

P.O. Box 191,  
Union, NH 03887  
(603) 817-8260

The purpose of MMRG is to identify and protect important natural resource areas, including water resources, farm and forestlands, wildlife habitat, recreational areas, cultural and scenic areas; to educate others about these efforts, and to join protected lands to form greenways. MMRG covers the towns of Farmington, Milton, Middleton, Brookfield, Wakefield and New Durham.

[www.mmrg.info](http://www.mmrg.info)

#### • **New Hampshire Audubon**

3 Silk Farm Road  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
(603) 224-9909

New Hampshire Audubon is dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and habitat throughout the state. Audubon owns and manages wildlife sanctuaries throughout the state.

[www.nhaudubon.org](http://www.nhaudubon.org)

#### • **Rockingham County Conservation District**

110 North Road,  
Brentwood, NH 03833

(603) 679-2790

The District works with individuals and towns that want to protect property for future generations. The district currently holds conservation easements on over 2,000 acres around the county.

• **Rockingham Land Trust**

8 Center Street

Exeter, NH 03833

(603) 778-6088

The Rockingham Land Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to permanently protecting the region's open spaces, including farmland, forestland, water resources, and wildlife habitat. The Trust serves the 39 communities of greater Rockingham County, New Hampshire. Established in 1980, the Trust has helped protect more than 3,300 acres of land.

*Note: Rockingham Land Trust and Seacoast Land Trust are currently in the process of merging to form the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire.*

[www.rockinghamlandtrust.org](http://www.rockinghamlandtrust.org)

• **Seacoast Land Trust**

P.O. Box 4183

Portsmouth, NH 03802

(603) 433-0963

The Seacoast Land Trust was founded by a group of citizens concerned about the loss of open spaces and natural resources to development in Seacoast New Hampshire communities. As a non-profit organization, the Trust works in partnership with local landowners, as well as community and other land protection organizations, to protect important local land resources for the public benefit.

*Note: Rockingham Land Trust and Seacoast Land Trust are currently in the process of merging to form the Southeast Land*

*Trust of New Hampshire.*

[www.seacoastlandtrust.org](http://www.seacoastlandtrust.org)

• **Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests**

54 Portsmouth Street

Concord, NH 03301

(603) 224-9945

Founded by a handful of concerned citizens in 1901, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests is dedicated to protecting the state's most important landscapes while promoting the wise use of its renewable natural resources. The Forest Society is New Hampshire's largest holder of conservation easements, and also owns more than 40,000 acres of land.

[www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org)

• **Strafford County Conservation District**

259 County Farm Rd Unit#3

Dover, NH 03820-6015

(603) 749-3037

The District works with individuals and towns that want to protect property for future generations.

• **Strafford Rivers Conservancy**

P.O. Box 623

Dover, NH 03821-0623

The Strafford Rivers Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and conserving the natural beauty, resources, and character of Strafford County. The SRC achieves its mission through the promotion of conservation easements, education, and the acquisition and stewardship of land.

[www.straffordriversconservancy.org](http://www.straffordriversconservancy.org)

• **The Nature Conservancy**

22 Bridge Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Concord, NH 03301

(603) 224-5853

Founded in 1951, The Nature Conservancy is the country's largest conservation organization. The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Conservancy has helped to protect more than 260,000 acres of land in New Hampshire.

[www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)

• **Trust for Public Land**

212 French Wing, 54 Portsmouth Street  
Concord, NH 03301

(603) 224-0103

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national, nonprofit, land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.

[www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)

## SECTION III – Scoring criteria

The scoring criteria for NHCELCP projects is largely based on the national CELCP scoring system. We have adapted it to reflect the priorities of the NHCELCP Plan while taking into consideration that projects may need to compete at the national level.

*NOTE:* These criteria are likely to change over time to reflect changes in the national CELCP scoring system.

### NHCELCP Scoring Criteria

a) **Primary purpose of the project** (Informational only) -- for use in scoring subsequent evaluation factors).

What is the primary purpose of this project, as stated in the application? If not specifically stated, the review panel member should use his or her best judgment to determine the primary purpose based on the application. *Check only one.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic
<input type="checkbox"/> Ecological	

For questions 1.b through 1.f, please rank each project according to the primary purpose identified in question 1.a, and use the secondary purpose to rank the remaining values. For example, if a project's primary purpose is protection of ecological values, use the ranking factors in the 1<sup>st</sup> column; use the 2<sup>nd</sup> column to rank its additional contributions of conservation, recreational, historic and aesthetic values.

	If primary purpose: (up to 20)	If secondary purpose: (up to 5)
<b>b) Assessment of conservation value (up to 20 points)</b>		

In the opinion of the review panel member, the conservation value of the proposed acquisition is best described as:

High .....	11-20	4-5
<i>The property directly links disconnected existing conservation lands within a CFA or between two CFAs; is directly contiguous to, and expand upon, existing conservation land in a CFA; is within 1/4 mile of any existing conservation land; helps to create a linkage between two or more CFAs; completes protection of a riparian buffer or protects high priority water supply lands.</i>		
Medium .....	4-10	2-3
<i>Some conservation elements are present, but the tract's significance is not defined by these elements; property has connectivity score 7-10; portions of the property require significant restoration</i>		
Low .....	0-3	0-1
<i>In the opinion of the reviewer, the site is not a significant conservation candidate or conservation elements are not present</i>		

Score: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>c) Assessment of recreation value (up to 20 points)</b>	<b>(up to 20)</b>	<b>(up to 5)</b>
High .....	11-20	4-5

*State Rivers Management Program; Wild and Scenic River or public access to tidal water where no other nearby access is available.*

Medium .....4-10 2-3

*Parcel that connect regionally significant trail systems; or parcels that provide public access to tributary rivers not in the State Rivers Management Program..*

Low .....0-3 0-1

*Opportunities for recreation/public access opportunities are very limited or absent on the site, perhaps due to protection of threatened and endangered species.*

Score: \_\_\_\_

**d) Assessment of ecological value (up to 25 points) (up to 25) (up to 7)**

(Note: Ecological receives a higher weighting, per the statutory authority for the program)

High .....16-25 5-7

*The tract is located in a Conservation Focus Area. As such, it exhibits exceptional, natural habitat quality, species diversity, invasive/exotic species presence is minimal.*

Medium .....6-15 3-5

*The tract is not located in a CFA but is adjacent to a CFA or is identified as important in a local conservation plan. Significant resources as identified in the Forest Ecosystems, Freshwater Systems, Coastal and Estuarine Resources, and Critical Plant and Wildlife Habitat maps of the Watershed Conservation Plan. As such, the tract exhibits moderate natural habitat quality or species diversity, has high quality habitat on a small portion of the site, or has high potential ecological value, yet restoration effort is needed, etc.*

Low .....0-5 0-2

*Biological or ecological parameters not significant; property's primary strength is recreation, historic, aesthetic, or other conservation value.*

Score: \_\_\_\_

**e) Assessment of historic values (up to 20 points) (up to 20) (up to 5)**

High .....11-20 4-5

*The tract contains significant national historical, cultural or archaeological features that are designated as a National Historical Landmark or are listed on the National Register of Historic Places or State Register of Historic Places.*

Medium .....4-10 2-3

*Birthplaces or homesites of locally or regionally important historic figures; Areas of original settlement by Europeans; Sites with known archeological relics (eg. shell middens, tools); Sites deemed by NH DHR as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (but not yet listed).*

Low .....0-3 0-1

*The site contains evidence of features that have not been formally evaluated to receive designation, or the site does not have evidence of historically or culturally significant features.*

Score: \_\_\_\_

**f) Assessment of aesthetic value (up to 20 points) (up to 20) (up to 5)**

High .....11-20 4-5

*Scenic vistas abundant on the site throughout year, complements nationally designated scenic byway or trails programs; or unobstructed public views of the ocean, Great Bay and salt marshes;*

Medium .....4-10 2-3

*Documented locally significant aesthetic resources (as identified in Master Plans); State Rivers Management Program; or Wild and Scenic Rivers.*

Low .....0-3 0-1

*Limited scenic or aesthetic quality at time of purchase; although restoration potential may exist*

Score: \_\_\_\_

**g) Relevance to CELCP Plan (up to 5 points)**



Does the project clearly describe whether the project is an integral part of a priority/project area described in a state's approved CELCP plan,

- Yes ..... 5  
*Application clearly demonstrates that the proposed project addresses a priority area identified in a state's approved CELCP plan*
- No ..... 0  
*State does not currently have an approved CELCP plan and/or application does not clearly demonstrate that the proposed project addresses a priority area identified in the state's approved CELCP plan*

Score: \_\_\_\_

#### **h) Contributions to other state/local plans (up to 5 points)**

Does the project clearly describe whether the project contributes to the resource management goals or conservation priorities identified in a state's CELCP plan, coastal zone management plan, NERR management plan, or other regional or state watershed protection plan?

	Yes	No
Project contributes to a state's coastal management plan and/or NERR management plan approved under the CZMA .....	2	0
Project supports a regional, state watershed planning effort .....	2	0
Project supports a local watershed planning effort.....	1	0

Score: \_\_\_\_

## **II. Technical/Scientific Merit (up to 25 points)**

This ascertains whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives.

*Projects will be reviewed and ranked according to the degree to which they:*

- *Are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses;*
- *Can be effectively managed and protected over the long-term (in terms of land stewardship and/or restoration) to conserve its ecological, conservation, recreation, aesthetic, or historical/cultural values;*
- *Can be executed within the performance period.*

*Priority will be given to projects that can be effectively managed and protected.*

### **Evaluation/Scoring Guidance for Evaluation Factor #2 -**

#### **a) Manageability – Land perspective (up to 8 points)**

*To what degree can the site be effectively managed and protected over the long-term to conserve its ecological, conservation, recreation, aesthetic, or historical/cultural values?*

- High .....6-8  
*Land is currently in the desired state consistent with the intended purpose(s), (e.g. land with ecological value does not require restoration, control of non-native species, or remediation), and surrounding land uses are compatible with long-term conservation of the site's values.*

Moderate.....3-5

*Current condition of the site is consistent with conservation goal but has some impacts, such as from previous management activities, non-native species, etc., and will require some active management or minor restoration to achieve desired state.*

Low.....0-2

*Land has been converted or actively managed historically in a manner not consistent with long-term conservation goals and/or contains hazardous materials or contamination that have not been removed/ remediated. Restoration will be necessary and arduous.*

Score: \_\_\_\_

**b) Long-term use of the site (up to 5 points)**

*To what degree are proposed long-term uses of the site compatible with the long-term to conserve its ecological, conservation, recreation, aesthetic, or historical/cultural values?*

High.....6-7

*Proposed uses of the site (or portion of site being acquired with CELCP funds) are compatible with the primary purpose for which the land is being protected and will maintain or improve the ecological, conservation, recreational, historic, or aesthetic values present on the site.*

Moderate.....3-5

*Existing uses will be continued or new activities are proposed on the site that are generally consistent with the primary purpose for which the land is being protected, and will not result in additional impacts to the values present on the site or result in conversion of lands from their natural or recreational state to other uses.*

Low.....0-2

*Existing uses or proposed uses of the site are likely to result in additional impacts to the values present on the site or conversion of lands from their natural or recreational state to other uses.*

Score: \_\_\_\_

**c) Threat of Conversion (up to 5 points)**

*To what degree is the property threatened by conversion from its natural or recreational state to other uses?*

Imminent .....4-5

*The proposed tract has development plans that have been approved by local governing body and regulatory agencies and the owner has received an offer to purchase.*

Moderate .....2-3

*The proposed tract has development plans that have been approved by local governing body and regulatory agencies; and/or regional development trends are high and property on the market (listed for sale).*

Low .....0-1

*Site has development potential, but development plans have not been approved for the tract; regional development trends do not indicate a high development threat, or much of site is not readily developable (e.g., wetlands, steep slopes, no infrastructure).*

Score: \_\_\_\_

**d) Project Readiness – (up to 5 points)**

*Does the project have clearly stated goals and objectives that can be achieved during the performance period?*

High.....4-5

*Site(s) have been identified, negotiations with landowner have resulted in purchase/sale agreement; appraisal, title opinion, and other documentation have been completed.*

Moderate.....2-3

*Site(s) have been identified, property is on market and/or discussions with landowner are likely to result in a purchase/sale agreement; appraisal, title opinion and other documentation can be produced within award period.*

Low.....0-1

*Preliminary contacts with landowner have been made and discussions are underway; or site has uncertainties (willingness to sell, litigation, or other liens or judgments, etc.) that are not likely to be resolved within the award period.*

Score: \_\_\_\_

### **III. Overall Qualifications of Applicants (10 points) –**

This ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. Specifically, projects will be evaluated according to the degree to which they can be effectively managed and protected over the long-term in terms of the applicant's capacity (staffing, resources, authority and expertise) to implement the project (complete the acquisition) and manage property for long-term conservation of coastal and estuarine lands consistent with CELCP guidelines and state coastal management program policies in order to conserve its ecological, conservation, recreation, aesthetic, or historical/cultural values.

#### **Evaluation/Scoring Guidance for Evaluation Factor #3 -**

##### **a) Ability to Acquire Land– Agency perspective (up to 5 points)**

*Does the applicant have the proven capacity and experience, based on sufficient funding, staff, authority and expertise, to execute the land transaction consistent with CELCP guidelines?*

High.....4-5

*CELCP recipient has funding, personnel, expertise, legal authority and demonstrated success for acquiring lands, or interests in lands, for long-term conservation purposes.*

Moderate.....2-3

*Funding or personnel appears to be limited; and/or state or local recipient appears to have a high caseload relative to resources;*

Low.....0-1

*Applicant has not identified, or reviewer is concerned that applicant does not have, the personnel, funding resources, or authority to execute the project or to provide necessary assurances for long-term conservation.*

Score: \_\_\_\_

##### **b) Ability to Manage Land– Agency perspective (up to 5 points)**

*Does the applicant have the proven capacity and experience to conduct the scope and scale of the proposed project, based on sufficient funding, staff, authority and expertise to manage property for long-term conservation of coastal and estuarine lands consistent with CELCP guidelines?*

High.....4-5

*Applicant has funding and personnel or a partnership/stewardship agreement in place to manage new tract and has demonstrated success in managing other properties for conservation purposes*

Moderate.....2-3

*Funding or personnel appears to be limited; and/or state or local recipient appears to have a high caseload relative to resources; funding, partnerships or stewardship agreements have been tentatively identified.*

Low.....0-1  
*Applicant has not identified, or reviewer is concerned that applicant does not have, the personnel or funding resources to accommodate the needed management of the tract.*

Score: \_\_\_\_

#### **IV. Project Costs (up to 20 points)–**

The Budget is evaluated to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and timeframe. Specifically, the budget is evaluated to determine if land acquisition costs are based on an independent appraisal or other assessment of fair market value, if the source of matching funds is consistent with CELCP guidelines and is likely to be available within the performance period, and if direct and indirect costs for implementation of the project are reasonable and consistent with CELCP guidelines.

#### **Evaluation/Scoring Guidance for Evaluation Factor #4 -**

##### **a) Land acquisition costs (up to 10 points)**

*Are land acquisition costs based on an independent appraisal or other assessment of fair market value? Do the costs account for any continuing streams of revenue derived from ongoing uses of the property or will such revenues be applied to long-term stewardship of the property?*

Yes.....8-10  
*Acquisition costs are based on an independent appraisal (conducted within a specified timeframe?). Project costs account for continuing streams of revenue derived from ongoing uses of the property.*

Somewhat.....4-7  
*Acquisition costs are based on other assessment of fair market value.*

No.....0-3  
*Acquisition costs are not based on either an appraisal or other assessment of fair market value.*

Score: \_\_\_\_

##### **b) Matching funds (up to 7 points)**

*Are the sources of matching funds reasonable, consistent with CELCP guidelines (cash contribution, donated land or land value from properties with similar coastal and estuarine attributes, and in-kind services such as restoration), and likely to be available within the performance period? Are there any sources that appear inconsistent (such as Federal funds, funds previously used or proposed for use to match another Federal grant, mitigation funds)?*

Yes.....5-7  
*Source of matching funds has been identified, are consistent with CELCP guidelines, and will be readily available at the time of closing or by the end of the award's performance period*

Somewhat.....3-5  
*Source of matching funds has been identified and appear consistent with CELCP guidelines, but it is difficult to determine whether costs are reasonable (e.g. value of in-kind services, applicant has not provided documentation for donated land or land value). Matching funds are contingent on receipt of other non-Federal funding (such as state or local bond funds), agreement with owner of "donated land", or otherwise subject to uncertainty of availability at the time of closing or by the end of the award's performance period*

No.....0-2  
*Reviewer is concerned that source of matching funds is not consistent with CELCP guidelines.*

Score: \_\_\_\_

**b) Other costs (up to 3 points)**

*If associated costs for executing the land transaction, such as appraisal, title opinion, site assessment, etc., are requested, do they appear reasonable for the scope of the project? Are requested funds for salaries and fringe benefits only for those personnel directly involved in implementing the proposed project?*

Yes.....2-3

*Associated costs appear reasonable for the scope of the project; Funds for administration are directly related to the project.*

No.....0-1

*Direct costs appear high for the scope of the project; Funds for administration do not appear to be directly related to the project.*

Score: \_\_\_\_

**OTHER SELECTION FACTORS FOR PROJECTS**

The merit review ratings shall provide a rank order for final funding recommendations. The NHCP may change the rank of the projects based on the selection factors below.

- *Availability of funds – For example, if the next project on the list exceeded the amounts available, the selecting official would be able to select the next highest ranked project that fit within the amounts available.)*
- *Geographic distribution of projects – For example, among similarly ranked proposals, the selecting official could give priority to projects that are in areas of the watershed that have been underrepresented in CELCP funding to date.*
- *Any “other factors deemed necessary to select among similarly-ranked projects” -  
--Success in leveraging other sources of funding.”*

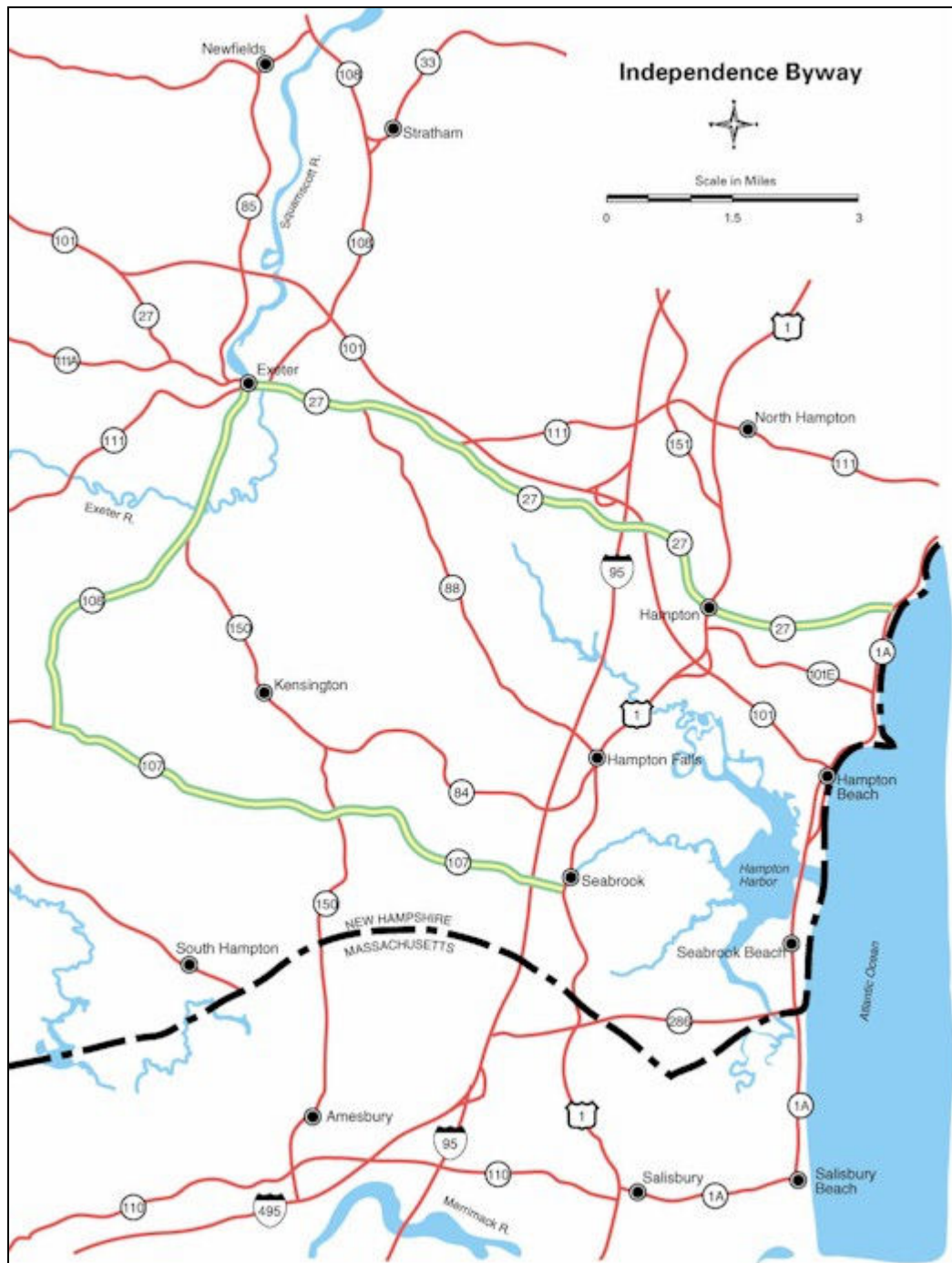


APPENDIX A -- MAPS OF SCENIC BYWAYS IN THE COASTAL WATERSHED

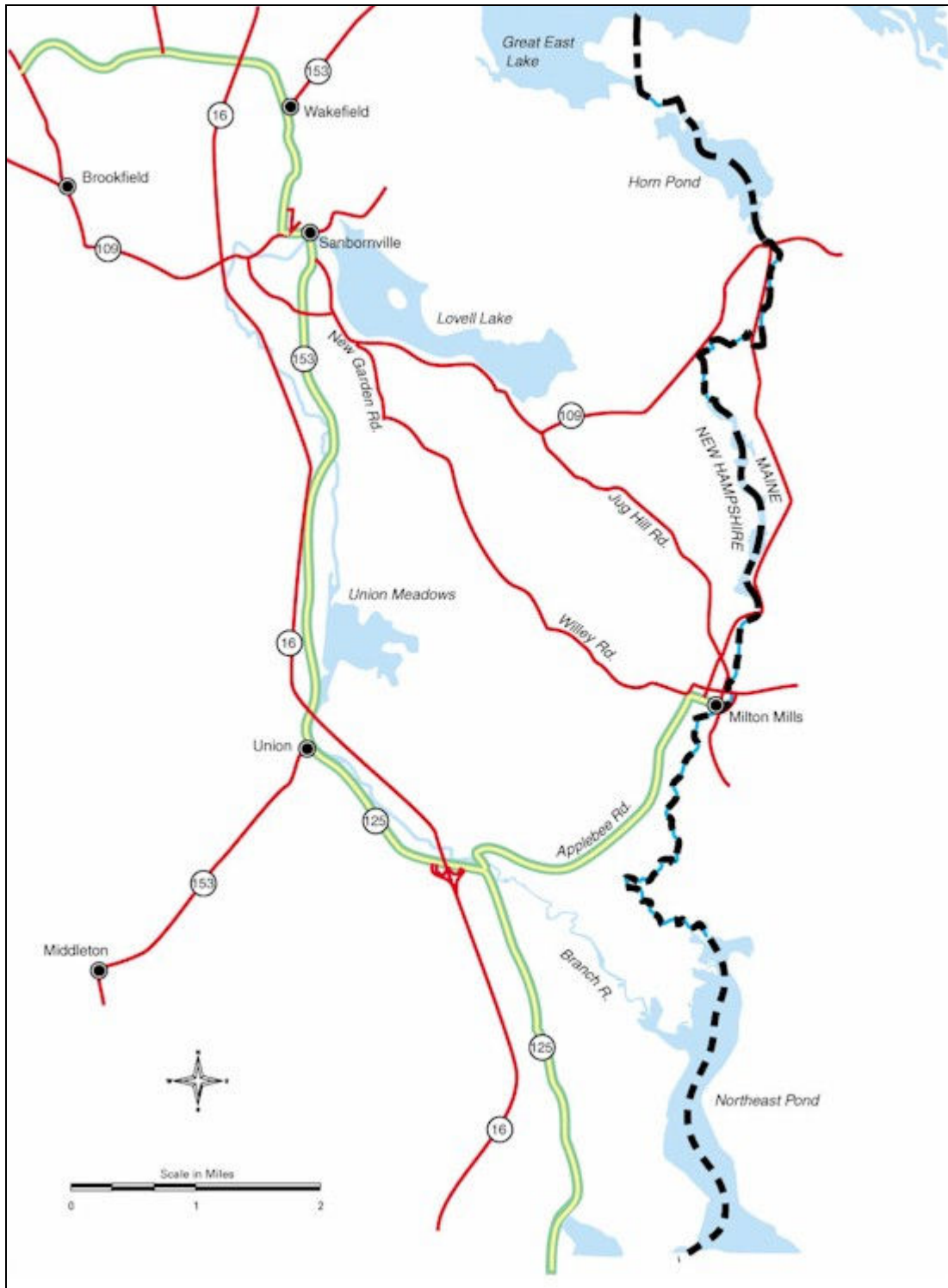
Map 1 – Coastal Byway



Map 2 – Independence Byway



Map 3 - Branch River Valley Trail



Appendix B – 11” x 17” maps